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THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

Debating the greenbelt

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Terry Fox's proud brother



GREG FURMINGER/
POSTMEDIA
NETWORK
Fred Fox,
elder
brother of
Terry Fox,
addresses
a teen
audience
at Port
Colborne
High
School on
April 15.
See story
on page 2.



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UPFRONT

■ **TERRY FOX:** Older brother visits south Niagara schools to encourage students to always set goals

'Never give up on your dreams'

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

What Terry Fox lacked in athletic ability or smarts in the classroom, he more than made up for in determination.

Fred Fox should know. As his elder brother by 14 months, he spent a close childhood with the national icon. They even wore matching clothes as kids, he joked, as he showed old family slides to teens assembled in the gymnasium of Port Colborne High School.

Fox, who on April 12 celebrated the 35th anniversary of Terry's Marathon of Hope at its starting point in St. Johns Harbour, N.L., was making the rounds in the lakeside city April 15, with stops planned also at Steele Street and St. Patrick's elementary schools and Lakeshore High School.

On April 16 he paid a visit to students at Princess Elizabeth in Welland.

During his Port High stop, Fox spoke of a brother who consistently showed perseverance at what he did, be it stacking building blocks on an uneven shag carpet in the living room as a small boy, or fighting to overcome his height challenge and playing ability to eventually become captain of his high school basketball team.

That same determination landed him a spot on the junior varsity team at Simon Fraser University, which he was attending in 1977 at age 18 when doctors discovered he had bone cancer in his right leg.

Ten days after amputation surgery, Terry was fitted with an artificial limb.

He pressed on, almost unaided.

"Everything he did, he had to work a little harder than everyone else," Fox said of his brother's short life.

Fox said it was in the 18 months following his Terry's surgery, often sharing waiting rooms with other cancer patients, many of them children, that his brother decided he could do more than any-



Fred Fox, older brother of Terry Fox, addresses a teen audience at Port Colborne High School Wednesday in Port Colborne.

GREG FURMINGER: POSTMEDIA NETWORK

one else.

He put in motion his plan to run across Canada to raise a million dollars for cancer research.

"Getting cancer made him a more caring person."

And the nation saw that more an more with each step he took.

Terry's journey that started on the East Coast in 1980 ended outside Thunder Bay on Sept. 1 of that year, after 143 days and 5,373 kilometres,

when cancer had appeared in his lungs.

He died June 28, 1981, at age 22.

Today there are at least 14

schools across the country named for Terry. There are countless more statues.

Terry Fox runs are now held in more than 30 countries and to date have raised more than \$700 million for research.

"You guys need to realize, you are truly making a difference," Fox told Port High students before concluding his presentation with a message.

"Just like Terry, always set goals and never give up on your dreams."

Fox, and his younger brother and sister, visit schools across the country to speak about Terry's legacy, encourage students to do their best and to promote the fundraising runs.

"We never could have imagined that 35 years later it is what it is," Fox said of what has come of his brother's goal prior to addressing his audience.

"Terry was just like them," he said as he looked towards the bleachers as students filed in for his 30-minute address.

Grade 11 student Logan Campbell said he participates in the Terry Fox Run to honour loved ones, friends and acquaintances affected by cancer.

"I've done it every year since I've been in school."

Port Colborne's community-wide Terry Fox Run takes place Sept. 20.

Last year's run raised more than \$16,000 — the second highest sum in the 20 years that the event has been held, said Nancy Salvage, who's been organizing the event for the past 11 years.

Combined with funds raised by school runs, more than one dollar is raised annually for each resident of Port Colborne.

Salvage was appreciative Fox was able to fit local visits into his schedule this week.

"He's a wonderful speaker and he has such a unique perspective on Terry Fox and the run," she said.

"This is such a wonderful story."

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FARMERS SHARE MANY CONCERNS OVER 10-YEAR-OLD PLAN AT ONE IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS

Demating the Greenbelt

ROB HOULE
PostMedia Network

Farmers feel like they are 'greenbelt hostages,' a town hall meeting to collect feedback on land-use policies heard April 15.

The meeting was one of 16 planned to gather public information as the province reviews the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan.

In a room of approximately 300 people at the Holiday Inn on Ontario St. in St. Catharines, a show of hands revealed about half the attendees to be farmers who have issues with the Greenbelt Plan which, they say, was foisted on them by people with little knowledge of specialty crop farming in Niagara.

The province implanted the Greenbelt Plan in 2005 to curb urban sprawl and protect environmentally sensitive and agricultural lands in a swath that covers 1.8 million acres, reaching as far north as Thorburn and stretching 325 kilometres from Rice Lake to the Niagara River.

Areas of dissatisfaction expressed by Niagara's greenbelt farmers include:

- Legislation limiting land severances to those who leave remnant parcels no smaller than 40 acres;
- Greenbelts placed on private property that have the goal of environmental protection.

Shaun Casey, whose in-laws have a 30-acre tender fruit farm in Vineland, expressed frustration that the greenbelt does not allow the farm to be parceled out even though it is no longer a viable farm operation.

"I for the life of me can't find an accountant that shows how a small tender fruit farmer can be economically viable," Casey said at the outset of the meeting.

"I don't think the greenbelt identifies ... the uniqueness of the Niagara region. Twenty-, 30-, 40-acre farms are going fowl. We're not greenbelting the greenbelt, we're browning the greenbelt because these businesses are going under."

"And they go under when the succession happens, and the old checks at this business and says, 'This is not an

economically viable business. I can make much more money in the city."

"There's a lot of people out there that should be identified in land-use planning as greenbelt hostages, because these are farmers' widows who have properties that they can't sell and are now economically unviable."

The first hour was an open house, where greenbelt stakeholders could collect literature about the four land-use reviews and ask questions of provincial staff.

That was followed by table discussions on the following topics: protecting agricultural land, water and natural areas; building communities that attract workers and create jobs; keeping people and goods moving, and building cost-effective infrastructure; fostering vibrant and inclusive communities; addressing climate change and building resilient communities; improving implementation and better aligning the plans.

Summaries from each town hall meeting will be forwarded to an advisory panel assembled by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

It's expected to offer recommendations for change of the land-use plans to the province by year end.

Former Niagara-on-the-Lake alderman Austin Kirby, a tender fruit farmer for more than 50 years, is critical of the current Greenbelt Plan.

She said she is going to be presenting to the (review panel) as (issues with) setbacks and things like use of our farmland from historic farm use." She said explaining why setbacks from streams and watercourses could mean new farm buildings being constructed far from existing clusters of buildings, compromising efficiency.

"Drains are not rivers. Constructed agricultural infrastructure, that has to be removed from the Greenbelt Plan—summarizing, if nothing else happens here, Kirby told the crowd in parallel to the discussion that took place at her table.

Reached Thursday morning, she said she would also like to see the minimum allowable severance reduced to 25 acres from 40.

Because it is some of the

best land for growing specialty crops in the province, it has great value, she said, adding it is unaffordable for someone trying to get into farming and cost-prohibitive for existing farmers to purchase parcels of 40 acres or more.

She added there is anecdotal evidence that more and more land is being scooped up by foreign companies with deep pockets, something echoed by Phil Tregunno, a tender fruit grower from Niagara-on-the-Lake and chair of the Ontario Tender Fruit Producers.

Tregunno said while the Greenbelt Plan has succeeded in protecting farmland, more and more often that land is being scooped up by international buyers.

"Our big point is to make sure that farmers own farmland, that it doesn't go to developers, and that we're speaking for the tender fruit producers, in a recent interview."

"They've protected the greenbelt, but they really haven't addressed the fact that non-residents of Canada are buying land in Niagara... effectively turning farmers into tenant farmers. You've protected the land, but you haven't really protected it to keep it as farmland for farmers to own their own land."

According to Tregunno, approximately 40% of farmland in Niagara is owned land.

He also has a problem with the land-use restrictions imposed on farmers as a result of the Greenbelt Plan.

She said she is going to be presenting to the (review panel) as (issues with) setbacks and things like use of our farmland from historic farm use." She said explaining why setbacks from streams and watercourses could mean new farm buildings being constructed far from existing clusters of buildings, compromising efficiency.

"We certainly don't want to see any more restrictions put on, because effectively if you put on large setbacks, particularly in the Niagara area where there's lots of creeks and streams running through farms, it really amounts to expropriation without compensation."

"You're really dispossessing because you're not able to use your land properly."

Bill Hodgson, a former mayor of the Town of Lincoln

and current regional councillor and retired tender fruit grower, said in a recent interview the Greenbelt Plan needs to "inject the human aspect—the fact that the greenbelt is a living, working landscape."

"If you look at the plan, they don't really acknowledge that farmers exist," Hodgson said.

"The plan only speaks to farmers who are outside of the things you can and can't do on farmland."

"The Greenbelt Plan is really a growth-limiting tool. It's intended to basically enshrine urban boundaries so they are not going to be continually expanding. And as a planning tool, it's very effective. There's no question, it's a powerful planning tool on that sort of macro level."

"But what's missing and what is needed is within the implementing rules that govern the greenbelt and the uses that are allowed in the greenbelt. What is required is a new acknowledgement that there needs to be a priority placed on the economic activity of farming."

Hodgson said it needs to be recognized that best farming practices, such as tile draining land, provide ecological benefits.

"The people are the purists who would like to return all of the features to their natural state, but we can't do that," he said.

Hodgson said best farming practices are being undermined by a "whole host" of restrictive environmental policies.

He gave as an example the setbacks from intermittent creeks.

"The implication is that these creeks are supposed to be re-naturalized, well those creeks are part of the drainage system that make farming possible. So the suggestion of re-naturalizing wildlife corridors and waterway corridors well beyond where they are still naturalized, way back from the top of the bank into the middle portion is just inconsistent, and it's a constant threat."

There's something entirely disheartening about a government plan that basically says that the majority of their issues are not a result of the Greenbelt Plan and so we have to put in place all these rules that restrict what they do," Hodgson said.

He said farming has made monumental leaps in environmental protection since the days of his youth on the family farm.

"I think about the practices that we do today on our farm compared to the 1950s

when I was growing up, it's amazing all of the incredible, beneficial environmental practices that we've introduced," he said.

"It's great ground here because the last 100 or 200 years, farm families have been operating their farms. They have been stewards of woodlots and hedgerows ... but to be a modern farmer, there are certain features of a natural environment that are inconsistent with having a crop."

As an example, Hodgson said, there are pests and diseases dangerous to crops that can be "stored" in naturalized areas.

"We don't want to wipe out all the naturalized areas, but when you start saying, your policy is to re-naturalize every feature, well that puts farming at risk. So what it is, our objective to turn Niagara's greenbelt into a park or are we anxious to turn agriculture into a safe and reliable food supply?"

"I would argue the safe and reliable food supply should be the top priority."

The Greenbelt Plan "language is urban, and it should have been rural. It should have been owned by the farm community, but it's basically being designed for the city. These environmental lobbies that are located and operate out of Toronto don't really have any stake, so they can be rather preachy, and they can be bossy with assets that they don't own. The Greenbelt Plan should acknowledge at the very least that it's the owners of the properties that have the most important voice."

"And the other benefits are derived from the people who work, live and play here," Hodgson said.

Burkhard Mausbeg, the chief executive officer of the Friends of the Greenbelt, "a charitable grant-making organization working to help keep farmers successful, strengthen local economies, and protect and grow natural features," attended the town hall meeting in St. Catharines.

He said he heard loud and clear the concerns of farmers, but that many of their issues are not a result of the Greenbelt Plan.

He said Thursday afternoon that a study his organization commissioned in 2014 revealed "95% of the issues the farmers had with the greenbelt were nothing to do with the greenbelt. It had to do with municipal planning rules or municipal government issues or something completely different, not the

greenbelt."

"I have found in Niagara that the greenbelt continues, for some farmers, to be the lightning rod for everything they have to deal with," Mausbeg said.

He said the process of review that will take place over the coming year will address the concerns of farmers.

"What we say to folks like Austin Kirby, is take the greenbelt-specific concerns that you have and bring them to the attention of the government. That's why it was great Austin and her husband were there (Wednesday). It was great that Austin held up the map and showed what the implications of setbacks were. That's exactly what this process is meant to be."

"What I have a problem with is categorical blame of the greenbelt for everything that's happened in agriculture. That's simply not true."

Mausbeg cited taxation and measures related to the protection of endangered species as two issues in which blame is often directed at the Greenbelt Plan.

He said he was sympathetic to Kirby's complaint that municipal drains were mapped as natural waterways.

"It doesn't make any sense. I totally agree with Austin that if it's an artificially built draining ditch that has water in it for three weeks a year, that it shouldn't be called an important waterway," Mausbeg said.

"I know that wasn't the intent of the greenbelt, to prohibit drainage. There are things near drainage ditches."

However, he said, the provision in the Greenbelt Plan that set 30-metre buffer zones from the edges of natural waterways is a good one.

"You need to protect the riverbank ... to allow proper functioning of the creek," he said.

"The original intent of the greenbelt to protect that river is a good one."

As for naturalized areas on farms such as woodlots and wetlands, Mausbeg said he is firmly behind their preservation, despite concerns from farmers those areas may harbor pests and wildlife detrimental to farming.

"The important ecological functions, we've lost a lot of those in this part of the world in the last 150 years, and wouldn't want to lose anymore."

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING ...

Reverence for Life a universal moral principle

FATHER DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
Special to InPort News

The resurrection of Jesus Christ shows that love is more powerful than death. It shows that God so loved the world. It shows that Jesus Christ loved his own who were in the world and that he loved them to the end, when he cried out from the cross, "It is finished!" And if God and his Christ so loved and valued us his creation, surely we should value and reverence life.

Albert Schweitzer was a doctor of theology, of music and of medicine, but he chose to be a missionary doctor in Africa. It was there in Africa as he was thinking about what might be the elementary and universal conception of the ethical, that there flashed upon his mind, unforeseen and unsought, the phrase

"Reverence for Life"

"This elementary ethical principle impressed me during my formative years. In the aftermath of the sexual revolution that followed the bloodiest century in history, I believe that we need to remember Reverence for Life in this 21st century."

Many parents are rightly concerned about the sexual component of Ontario's new health and physical education curriculum. Sex is not only basic to one's identity but procreates new life. Procreation is the focus of God's first command in Genesis, "Be fruitful and multiply." It involves man and woman, created in God's image. No wonder that the sight of a new-born baby is the best evidence or "proof" of God's existence.

The new sex curriculum recognizes the primary role of parents in their children's education. The minister of education has

stated that parents have the right to have their children exempted from parts of the curriculum that may offend their religious beliefs. "This would be reassuring if Hamilton parents, for example, did not have to sue their board to have this exemption."

Advocates of the new sex curriculum insist that it is all about facts. But facts need to be age appropriate. Grade 1 is simply too early to talk about sex in class. And when sexual activity and birth control are considered in the teen years, the facts of sexually transmitted diseases should not be omitted. The fact that sexual activity affects us at our deepest level suggests that abstinence before marriage is smart and healthy.

Janet E. Smith gave a thoughtful definition of sex: "Sex is a life-giving force that unites the man and woman through total mutual self-giving." She said that sex is so much

more than just sexual intercourse or other sexual activities. "It's about responsibility, self-sacrifice, becoming one, and ultimately, about children."

John Carpay said that the new sex-ed curriculum "presents the physical and biological aspects of human sexuality in a vacuum, detached from love, marriage and procreation." If sex education is just that, then it devalues sex as a mere tool for maximizing pleasure.

I think that the sex-ed teachers should affirm human sexuality in the context of reverence for life. Such a context is neither partisan nor proselytizing. Any teacher who cares about students as human beings will recognize that Reverence for Life is a universal moral principle that will help students throughout their lives, especially during the often turbulent teen-age years.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Algotsteel is pictured at Port Weller Dry Docks in this undated photo by Tom Fraser, courtesy of Marty Fraser.

Shipwrecks – Algotsteel

SKIP GILLHAM
For Postmedia Network

The first *Algotsteel* was part of the Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway fleet from 1935 until 1967.

The 152.40-metre-long bulk carrier had been built at Wyandotte, Mich., and completed in April 1908 as the *Thomas Barlow*.

In the early years, it worked as an ore and coal carrier for the Postal Steamship Co. but was sold to Algoma and renamed *Algotsteel* in 1935. The ship now carries considerable grain for the new owner and often frequented the Georgian Bay ports.

In 1962, the bulk carrier sustained bottom damage near Sault Ste. Marie, but, despite its age, the vessel was repaired. It hit bottom again near the Soo in 1966 and this time the cost of repairs could not be justified.

Algotsteel was sold for scrapping in Hamilton but resold for use as a breakwall at Burns Harbor, Indiana, in 1967. The ship was towed there from Collingwood and scuttled during the harbour development project during the third quarter of the year.

A modern *Algotsteel* still sails for Algoma Central Corp.

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LOCAL NEWS



Johnny Cash tribute coming to Port Robinson

Fans of Folsom Prison Blues, I Walk the Line and A Boy Named Sue will want to be in Port Robinson this weekend. The Ring of Fire Johnny Cash

concert Saturday will feature tribute performer Marty Allen. The show starts 8 p.m. at the Darlene Ryan Community Centre in Port Robinson.

The concert is in support of keeping the community centre open. Tickets are \$20 each and are available at Stevie Nic's Bar

in Port Robinson, the concert sponsor, or by phoning 905-325-5704. The community centre is at 40 Cross St.

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■ **WARNING:** Police remind people to be aware of red flags raised by cold callers

Woman's fears were correct — she was being scammed

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

When Gerry Wilcox got a phone call recently telling her she was a Publisher's Clearing House prize winner, she had her doubts.

Those doubts got stronger when she was told she would first have to pony up \$499 to have her windfall released to her.

The Welland woman believes she was an intended target of a phone scam.

"It irritates me," she said. "It just drives me up the wall."

Wilcox said she tracked to Jamaica a phone number that showed up on her call display.

She also called Publisher's Clearing House directly to see if the call she received was legit.

As she had suspected, it wasn't.

"What she did was exactly right," said Sgt. Paul Spiridi, of the Niagara

Regional Police central fraud unit.

He said other than the call his office received from Wilcox, he hasn't heard of any recent reports of a phone scam involving Publisher's Clearing House, but that name does come up now and then.

Not unlike phony Reader's Digest scams.

"They just latch onto any popular name," he said of fraudsters looking to bilk people out of their money.

Criminals might also use current events to target people, such as making claims of being from Revenue Canada at tax time.

Spiridi said people should be leery of cold calls with claims of contest prizes or cash winnings.

"If you haven't entered, you're not going to win," he said.

"As soon as they ask you to pay anything up front — those are the alarm bells right away."

Similarly, fraudulent callers claiming they want to make an account deposit of a windfall or inheritance might be phishing for bank information or other personal information that shouldn't be surrendered over the phone.

People can protect themselves against fraudulent callers by learning more at the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website: www.antifraudcentre-centraintfraude.ca.

Spiridi said because there are so many scams, police simply can't issue alerts on all of them.

But he did note Tuesday, the so-called Microsoft technician scam that has reached out to many people with a phone has been adapted to make use of the Apple computer brand.

Wilcox said she learned her lessons in phone fraud the hard way.

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■ **FUNDRAISING:** Walker Industries provides largest-ever corporate gift

College campaign gets a big helping hand

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Ben Laurence spent about four months in Chile, working with a company from St. Catharines that builds unmanned submarines.

"I was doing 3-D Imagery underwater with these submarines," he said. "It was really cool stuff."

Recently, the 33-year-old returned to his hometown college after spending eight months on co-op placement with a large aerospace company in Winnipeg, working on the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter plane as part of a U.S. military contract.

Even though Laurence is a pilot — he earned his wings a few years ago at the Niagara Centre Airport — he didn't get to fly the jet he was working on.

"Yeah right, I wish," he said, laughing when asked if he was permitted to take the F-35 for a flight.

It's an impressive resume for someone still a few weeks away from graduating from the Niagara College's engineering program.

Laurence attributes his accomplishments to the work he did as a senior research associate with Niagara College's Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre, a facility run by engineering department faculty and staffed by students.

"There was nowhere else in the country that was doing the stuff that we were doing," he said.

And it's only going to get better.

The college recently received a \$4.2-million provincial government investment to build a 15,000-square-foot expansion to the college, to enhance the work done within the research and innovation centre.

Now that the college has received an additional \$1.2-million donation from the Walker family and Walker Industries Holdings Ltd. — the largest corporate donation the college has ever received — "just imagine what's possible," Laurence said.

"It's a pretty huge deal for us. We build things and do projects for local industry. This money is going to allow us to purchase a whole bunch of new advanced manufacturing technologies out there.

"This is going to push us right over the limit," he said.

College president Dan Patterson could barely contain his excitement in the hours prior to the annual Niagara College Foundation's Seaford Gala, held at the Fallsview Casino Resort on April 11.

It was held to launch the foundation's Achieving Dreams campaign, which will raise \$7 million in support of the \$55-million Capital Vision project to expand facilities at the

Wendland and Niagara-on-the-Lake campuses.

"Having that industry support and endorsement is so important to us, and it's a real testimony to the work that we're doing with the support that the Walkers are providing," Patterson said.

"It's very exciting to know the Walker name will go on our Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Centre. It's part of our efforts to transform our region, as increasingly more small and medium-sized enterprises are looking for support for our research and development."

As a result of the government and industry support, Patterson said the college and community has "an opportunity to really make a difference with this very innovative centre."

"Advanced manufacturing is so important to our economy. But in order to do what we want to do, private sector support is really the benchmark for success. And this is really what's so exciting about such a large gift as the Walker gift," he said.

"That industry endorsement is really a statement to the community, to our students and to the college that we're on the right track."

In a prepared statement, Walker Industries' shareholder Sheila (Walker) Bonapace said her family and employees "are incredibly proud to invest in Niagara College through its Achieving Dreams campaign."

"For businesses like ours, that depend on skilled workers that our college educates and trains, it's important that we support this campaign. The future of our region depends on it," she added.

Laurence said the \$1.2-million donation will be spent in hours of building a better future for the region.

"We lost a lot of manufacturing jobs, obviously, due to cheaper labour outside of the country," he said.

"But now with advanced automation, and we're reverse engineering facilities that we're developing in the lab, a lot of that technology will help to bring new high-tech jobs to the region."

"The advance manufacturing sector will really benefit from what we're doing here," he said.

While the sky's the limit for Laurence, he hopes to spend his future in the college that gave him his start, hoping to continue working for the research centre after he graduates.

"That research centre is just going to be a dream come true for what I like to do, which is build new things," Laurence said.

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■ **SAFETY**

Police road watch nabs 1,235 drivers

Police say more than 1,000 drivers were nabbed for road offences during a three-month operation called Operation Multi-Task.

In one instance, a driver was stopped and found to have more than five times the legal blood-alcohol level in his system.

Starting in January, Niagara Regional Police officers concen-

trated on drivers in Lincoln, West Lincoln, and Grimsby who speed, drive impaired, drive while distracted or failed to follow the rules of the road.

During the three-month period, officers handed out 1,235 provincial offence notices and arrested 10 people for driving while impaired either by alcohol or drugs.

Two other drivers were arrested for criminal code driving offences.

Of those, a teenage driver was charged with stunting for driving 64 km/h over the limit.

Most of the provincial offence notices were issued for speeding and distracted driving, police said.

—Postmedia Network

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■ NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE

Con calls foul over hearing

ROB HOULE
Postmedia Network

The cop awaiting discipline from the Niagara Regional Police Service wants the officer presiding over the matter to remove himself from the case.

Const. Joseph Nardilli's lawyer, Leanne McCloy, argued at an NRPS tribunal April 14 that Insp. George Bench's decision to reject a joint discipline submission raises a "reasonable question of bias."

Nardilli pleaded guilty Jan. 13 to a Police Services Act charge of discreditable conduct, stemming from his March 2014 criminal conviction for unlawfully being in a dwelling house.

He was originally charged with criminal harassment, making harassing phone calls, break and enter, being unlawfully in a dwelling house and forcible entry. Four of those five charges were dropped.

He pleaded guilty to unlawfully being in a dwelling house in the Ontario Court of Justice and was given a conditional discharge and probation for one year.

In a highly unusual move, on Feb. 10 Bench rejected a joint submission from Bench and the service's prosecuting officer, Insp. Cindy White, that would have seen Nardilli forfeit up to 38 hours pay as punishment.

Bench said at the time the actions of Nardilli warranted more serious punishment. He put the case over until Tuesday morning to give Nardilli's lawyer and the service prosecutor time to issue a new recommendation.

"What I am not prepared to do, just so we are clear, is to reopen my reasons and findings for judgment. This is not an opportunity for an appeal," Bench said on Feb. 10.

"I am asking for new submissions that might inform my judgment."

Tuesday morning at police headquarters, McCloy asked that Bench recuse himself from the tribunal in part because he had what he described as "unintentional contact" with the victim.

Bench read into the record an e-mail he sent to McCloy and White on Feb. 11 in which he notes he received an e-mail message from his administrative assistant to return a call to a woman whom he believed was a colleague. When he returned the call, it soon became evident it was not the woman he thought it was, but was the woman who had been involved with Nardilli.

She told Bench she wanted to thank him for "taking the matter seriously."

"I stopped her, saying, 'I'm sorry, I'm unable to discuss this as it is not concluded,'" Bench said he told the woman, advising her that if she had additional information she was to contact White.

"I'm confident that this brief contact is not going to have an impact on my ability to conclude the matter," Bench said.

The defence did not share that confidence, bringing forward a motion that Bench step away from setting the penalty.

This is a motion seeking the recusal of the hearing officer on the basis the hearing officer denied the applicant's right to procedural fairness in rejecting the joint

CASES DEFERRED

A couple other cases scheduled to be before the discipline tribunal Tuesday were put off as they worked their way through the court system.

Const. Scott Heron's hearing was put off to Sept. 8. He faces three counts of discreditable conduct and neglect of duty relating to the alleged smuggling of cheese from the U.S. to the Canada.

This case is before the courts.

Sgt. Cathy Edgcombe, whose criminal charges for alleged drinking and driving June 2012 are still before the courts, had her discipline hearing put off to Aug. 11.

submission without notice and opportunity to respond," McCloy told the tribunal.

She said the joint submission on penalty assessed the seriousness of public interest, recognition of the seriousness of the misconduct, Nardilli's employment history, need for deterrents, ability to reform or rehabilitate the officer, the reputation of the police service, financial loss and the effect on public safety.

"The extensive submissions made by both the defence counsel and the prosecutor indicated that an in-depth analysis of these factors had been undertaken by the parties in arriving at the joint submission on penalty," McCloy said.

"The decision to bring the joint submission forward was made by the parties following numerous discussions, a thorough review of the factors and other considerations to ensure that the proper balance of discipline, safeguards and public confidence were taken into account."

In light of that, McCloy said, the joint submission was "entitled to be afforded significant weight" by Bench.

In making her case, she cited similar cases from police services in other jurisdictions in which it was ultimately ruled unfair for hearing officers to reject joint submissions, with the threat of harsher penalties, without prior notice being given to the defence or prosecution.

She said in light of this, Nardilli is entitled to a final penalty hearing that does not include Bench, since with him it would not be possible to proceed without reasonable apprehension of bias.

While she stressed she believed the contact between the victim and Bench was inadvertent "and that the hearing officer did the best he could to deal with the situation ... that it did happen nonetheless and compounds an already damaged process."

"It is reasonable for the applicant to believe that this conversation may influence the decision making of the hearing officer," McCloy said.

The prosecution had no position on the motion. Bench will announce June 9 whether he will recuse himself.

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— with files from Postmedia Network

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■ **MUSIC:** Summer lineup includes Blondie, My Morning Jacket

Artpark plans 'dynamite schedule'

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Artpark has loaded up for its annual summer concert season.

The Lewiston, N.Y., venue had already announced its Tuesday and Wednesday night concert series when it added another show — Counting Crows on Sept. 2 — on April 13.

That brings the total to 20 shows, starting June 10 at the Outdoor Amphitheater and Main Stage Theater.

Unlike past years which catered exclusively to classic rock, several modern artists like Grace Potter, Marianas Trench and My Morning Jacket will take the stage this summer for the Tuesday and Wednesday night series.

"This year's concert lineup at Artpark is among the most interesting and exciting that we have presented in the 10-year plus history of the two series," said Artpark president George Osborne. "We have expanded our Wednesday series to seven shows, and it is a dynamite schedule. I can't wait to see some of these bands in person."

Tuesdays in the Park, Artpark's most popular series, starts June 16 with Wide-spread Panic. It's followed by:

- Peter Dinklage & Cheap Trick (June 23)
- Steve Miller Band (June 30)
- Melissa Etheridge & Blondie (July 7)

- Deep Purple (July 14)
- The Australian Pink Floyd Show (July 21)
- Grace Potter (July 28)
- Tedeschi Trucks Band and Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings (Aug. 4)
- Creedence Clearwater Revisited & America (Aug. 11)
- Lynyrd Skynyrd (Aug. 18)
- The Doobie Brothers (Aug. 25)

All shows except Skynyrd are \$12 (US) advance, \$17 the week of the show. Skynyrd is \$18 advance, \$23 week of the show.

The Wednesdays at Artpark series kicks off with pop violinist Lindsey Stirling, whose YouTube videos have been viewed more than 580 million times since 2007.

She's followed by:

- Three Days Grace (June 17)
- Marianas Trench (July 1)
- STS9 (July 8)
- O.A.R. (July 15)
- My Morning Jacket (July 22)
- Christina Perri & Colbie Caillat (July 29)

All shows are \$12 advance, \$17 week of show.

At Artpark's Main Stage Theater will be David Gray & Amos Lee June 20, and Counting Crows Sept. 2. Tickets are \$35 to \$59.50 US.

For tickets visit www.artpark.net or phone 1-800-223-6000.



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LOCAL NEWS

■ **ANCIENT HISTORY:** Gayle Gibson, retiring from the Royal Ontario Museum, to give Niagara vineyard talk

Canada's favourite mummy hunter returns

LAURA RANIERI

Special to Postmedia Network

The name may sound familiar: Gayle Gibson.

The well-loved Egyptologist with Royal Ontario Museum was of course the woman who identified that peculiar Egyptian mummy in the old Niagara Museum back in the 1990s as none other than Pharaoh Ramses I, and helped to get him back to Egypt.

Now, on the eve of her retirement from the ROM, she returns to Niagara for a special travel and history talk, Sunday, April 26, at Konzelmann's Estate Winery. The event starts 2 p.m.

The internationally-renowned mummy and coffin expert has starred in numerous history documentaries over the years, including *Museum Secrets*, *Nova: The Mummy Who Would Be King* and last year's BBC One program *Tutankhamen, the Truth Uncovered*.

Her name also made the news this past fall when she discovered the name of a female mummy — "Nefert-Mut (a.k.a. "Justine") — who had lain unidentified in the ROM museum vaults for decades.

"I'm interested in the mummy not as a dead thing but as a person who once lived," says Gibson. "Someone who makes us wonder: what was it like to be him or her, way back then? What was it like to be alive as an ancient Egyptian?"

Breathing life into the ancient Egyptians is what Gibson does best. A consummate storyteller, she has inspired tens of thousands of public school students, life learners and history lovers over a quarter-century of lectures, interviews, classes and TV

appearances.

Born in east Toronto 57 years ago, she remains a radiant lady who continues her lifelong love affair with Egypt — a subject, she confesses, gripped her at a very young age.

"I used to go down to the ROM every weekend and walk around until my feet were bleeding," she says. "I would sit on the floor and copy all the hieroglyphs off the wall. I remember one really thrilling day as a young teenager when I found the name Metjeret and realized I could actually read a little bit."

Surprisingly, she was deterred from her dream profession by a guidance counsellor who dismissed it as 'stupid' and not something that could ever make her a living. Instead, she went on to become a drama and high school teacher for Chatham-Kent, York, North York and Toronto boards of education.

It was only after her son was born that she rediscovered her true calling and returned to University of Toronto to attain a master of arts degree in Egyptology as a mature student.

"I thought if I was good, the museum just might let me dust the coffins or something."

But that's all history now. After almost 25 years as the ROM's most popular teacher, she is immensely proud of the institution and its many contributions to historical preservation, study and education.

"The ROM was one of the first museums in the world to take the study of mummies very seriously," she says. "The mummy of Djedneferankh was one of the first to get a proper modern CT scan — and we are now continuing that work with other mummies

who are more obscure but I think deserve the attention just as much."

Gibson also lights up at the mention of another museum close to her heart.

"I used to go to Niagara every year to see this astonishing old museum. It had an amazing collection with rare fossils, Samurai armour and these rare animals and birds preserved more than 150 years ago, many of which are now extinct. There was also a mummy there that I often wondered about."

"He looked like a member of Ramses the Great's family, and the more I studied him, the more I thought he might really be a royal person. I began to call him 'Ramses for luck'."

Gibson turned her interest in the mummy's origins into a lecture and an article for *KMT, the Journal of Modern Egyptology*, suggesting he was most likely a Ptolemaic priest but supporting the possibility he could be Ramses I.

When the Niagara museum was sold in the late 1990s, Gibson was consultant to the buyer William Jamieson and helped sell the coffins and mummies to the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory at Atlanta. It was in Atlanta that the positive identification of



HANCOOT PHOTO

Canada's mummy hunter, Gayle Gibson.

the mummy as Ramses the I was made, and the great Pharaoh was triumphantly returned home to Luxor.

Gibson will pay her respects to Ramses during her January 2016 tour to Egypt. With more than 20 trips to the Egypt under her belt, she is certain April 26 to bring an insider's view of all the pyramids and temples, along with the rarely-visited sites of Middle Egypt.

"Ancient history helps open up the world to us," she says. "These ancient people managed quite well without iPhones and computers, writing wonderful poetry and building nifty things like pyramids ... So they remind us that the human race is big-

ger and more interesting than our little lives here in Ontario."

For more details on Gibson's A Taste of Ancient Egypt

talk at Konzelmann's or her 2016 Egypt tour, visit ancientegyptlive.com or e-mail anna@yourjourney.com.

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■ SUPREME COURT

Ruling could force prayer change

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

The Supreme Court's ruling that prayers cannot be recited before municipal council meetings will have a ripple effect across Niagara.

The court released its ruling Wednesday, an 8-1 decision on a complaint filed by a Saguenay, Que., resident who felt his freedom of religion was violated when a prayer was recited before elected officials held a public meeting in that city.

The court agreed the practice infringed on freedom of conscience and religion and was a violation of the Charter of Rights.

The custom of reciting a prayer prior to meetings varies among Niagara's municipalities, from invitations to having no prayer recited at all.

Niagara Region Chairman Al Caslin said the region's invocation "is a little bit different ... it's non-denominational in nature."

"But in the same vein, we're having our staff look into the particular situation and where we're going to be going from here."

Asked about his reaction to the ruling, Caslin said it "wasn't about what I feel, it's about how the council as a whole feels. I take their direction."

Dean Iorrida, clerk of the City of Niagara Falls, said the municipality's solicitor is reviewing the court decision.

"Currently, we have a prayer, of any denomination or invocation of the councillors' choosing," Iorrida said in an e-mail.

He said a councillor is not required "to introduce a prayer or invocation, if they are not comfortable doing so."

Iorrida added: "Obviously, we will review our practice in light of the recent decision."

Longtime St. Catharines city Coun. Joe Kusner said he assumed the current invocation used before meetings at city hall "is against the spirit of the ruling."

"Regardless of how we feel, we have to abide by the law," he said, adding he had "no problem" with the court decision. Grimshy town manager Keith Vogl said the town does not regularly have such a prayer.

"Historically, we have done a non-denominational (one) at our inaugural council meetings every four years," he added.

Vogl said the ruling "seems like it's generated a lot of conversation ... one of the comments made to me is (that) it's not so much you can't do a prayer ... you can't do one thing favouring and prioritizing one religion over another."

"But I don't know."

The ruling is not an issue for the Welland city council, said interim manager Janette Lovey-Smith.

"It has no effect on us," she said, adding the city stopped reciting a prayer about a decade ago.

"The City of Welland does not have (prayer) incorporated into council agendas or the committee level."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **WELLNESS:** Program brings Red Roof Retreat clients together with the community

Ageless Grace in the exercise room

JULIE JOCSAK
Postmedia Network
It's the first of its kind in

Niagara.
Ageless Grace is an exercise and movement class that

combines the special needs clients from Red Roof Retreat and members of the general public in the same space at Ina Grafton Gage Village in St. Catharines.

The classes are kept small, five to eight people, with participants circled around the room on chairs. That allows those with disabilities or limited movement abilities to take part in the class.

Led by instructor Kaye Didi Wilson, Ageless Grace aims to encourage function in the brain through movement. Each half-hour class goes through seven exercises that encourage movement of the joints, breathing exercises to calm the body and mind and oxygenate cells, plus improve balance and cognitive function to name a few.

"I like it very much because I have fibromyalgia, which makes me very sore and very stiff, especially if I don't do anything. If I get on the floor, I can never get up so this is a good exercise to do," said Klara Harssema, 77, of St. Catharines.

Jonathon Lotz has been a client of Red Roof Retreat since 2009. He breaks into a big smile when asked about the class.

"All the moves," he said when asked what his favourite part is.

In the past, he took part in



PHOTOS BY JULIE JOCSAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Kaye Didi Wilson leads the Ageless Grace class at Red Roof Retreat Community Centre at Ina Grafton Gage Village on April 13. The class, called an Open Class, combines special needs clients with members of the public in one class, a first of its kind in Niagara.

a powerlifting class at White Oaks resort that was part of the Special Olympics, but this class is a first of its kind for him.

Not only do the music and movement during the class attract him, but the comfort of knowing a lot of the people around him is a plus as well.

"I think it's nice to see both populations coming together, because I don't think the older generation had a lot of exposure to individuals with disabilities when they were growing up," said Kaitlin Horne, a day program councillor with Red Roof Retreat.

"It's been great," said Wilson. "They certainly live it up."

To join or to learn more, visit redroofretreat.com.



Jonathon Lotz, 21 of St. Catharines, participates in an Ageless Grace class led by Kaye Didi Wilson at the Red Roof Retreat Community Centre at Ina Grafton Gage Village on Monday, April 13. The class, called an Open Class, combines special needs clients with members of the public in one class, a first of its kind in Niagara.

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■ EDUCATION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

David Nguyen, 20, is a biomedical science student Brock University.

Student of immigrant parents thrives as volunteer

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

David Nguyen was inspired in his second year of high school to join 13 school clubs. His motives, he admits, were a bit misguided at first.

“Every club you joined you would get a free T-shirt,” he said jokingly. He quickly realized that becoming involved in the school community was a worthwhile endeavour.

Nguyen volunteered with a variety of clubs and organizations during his years at Saint Paul High School in Niagara Falls and he has continued his volunteer efforts at Brock University.

Despite a heavy workload at school — the 20-year-old biomedical science student plans to become a doctor — he’s already logged 500 volunteer hours this school year.

While his initial interest in volunteering might have come from a desire for new shirts, he quickly realized his need to give back, to help others, went much deeper.

His parents fled their native Vietnam in 1980, shortly after the war ended. They lived in a refugee camp in Malaysia for a while before eventually making to Canada.

His mother was 17 and his father was 20. Neither one of them spoke English.

They arrived in Niagara Falls with nothing but a desire to offer a better life for their future family.

“It was a really hard journey for them to get here,” Nguyen said. “They were able to escape a country to build a better life for us.” Nguyen and his two older sisters took advantage of all the opportunities Canada had to offer.

“Growing up there was a lot of community support that got me to where I am today,” he said.

“When the community presents you with opportunities to do better things, you want to give back. I want to volunteer for other youths and to be a role model for them.”

Nguyen volunteers with a Niagara Region Public Health program called Youth Net that helps high school students deal with mental health issues.

“It’s about education to reduce the stigma

but at the same time we talk to the students to mitigate suicide risks and to provide resources.”

He also volunteers at Distress Centre Niagara and with various other organizations and causes.

At Brock, he’s the president of the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society, which is comprised of students with both high academic achievements and personal leadership abilities.

The group focuses on leadership development as well as fundraising. It has raised more than \$30,000 for the Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region.

He’s also involved with a research project examining endoscopy unit efficiency in the Niagara Health System.

“We want to have better patient satisfaction, better doctor satisfaction and reduced wait times,” he said.

When he’s not volunteering, Nguyen is a math and science teaching assistant at Brock, as well as an undergraduate researcher in biochemistry.

“I find that spare time isn’t very useful,” he said. “I’d much rather spend my time giving back.”

In the future, he hopes to launch a program to assist low income students with their post secondary education.

“My big passion is to help students who didn’t have the opportunities I did growing up,” he said.

Brock students have donated a total of 70,500 volunteer hours this school year to more than 200 agencies and organizations at the school and across Niagara.

“We are very proud of the contributions Brock student volunteers have made to the Niagara region,” said Kristen Smith, manager of community outreach and programs for Brock’s department of student life and community experience.

“There are many students doing a lot of great things in our neighbourhoods, schools and organizations to serve our community.”

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Spring prep



NIAGARA POSTMEDIA NETWORK
Emily Mazi works on the display outside Mullen Garden Market in Niagara Falls. Garden centres and businesses around Niagara are gearing up for the spring season. The warmer temperatures this week are a welcome sign after a long, record cold winter.

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■ **GOVERNMENT:** Columnist looks at chief administrative officers

Book profiles the hidden powers at city hall

DON FRASER

Postmedia Network

In cities and towns across Ontario, chief administrative officers tend to fly under the

radar.

Yet they also hold down a key role in ensuring a municipality runs smoothly. And they're often the best-paid municipal staffer.

The best ones are skilled at turning sometimes difficult directions from council into reality and ensuring daily operations are seamless. And, it can be argued, these

unselected yet powerful managers are poorly understood.

Hence, the new book by David Siegel.

A Brock University political science professor, Siegel researched five top Canadian CAOs for his new book titled *Leaders in the Shadows*.

Two of them have had careers working for large jurisdictions, two for medium-sized municipalities and another for smaller ones.

"I was looking for CAOs who had been recognized by their peers as being successful leaders," said Siegel, a Postmedia Network columnist and founder of Niagara Community Observatory, who has previously written or edited five books. "And for those qualities, the top of the list was integrity and honesty. The other one was always respect."

"They respected everyone they dealt with ... and were in turn respected by the people around them."

Siegel said communication skills are also crucial for this position, "and that especially includes listening and being a perceptive judge of people around them," he said.

With the position comes the understanding of the office of mayor and council must receive a "great deal of respect, regardless of who might hold that office at any point in time."

To sum up these character traits, the best CAOs are "cool as a cucumber."

While there can be rhetoric and loose opinions thrown around a council chamber, it's important to have a city manager who stays collected and logical.

"That person has to be the quiet voice of reason," he said.

Those stellar CAOs proffer advice that is as professional as possible and

grounded in rationality.

"Administrators can be pulled into the notion, 'Should I tell council what they want to hear or tell them based on my best professional advice?'" Siegel said.

"The good ones always ... opted to give council their best professional advice, even if perhaps council didn't want to hear it."

Keith Robichaud, manager of Norfolk County, was one of the subjects in Siegel's book. Others include Michael Penn, who is retired and was a CAO for Burlington, Hamilton, Wentworth, and Mike Garrett, also retired and who was formerly CAO at Peel, York and Toronto municipalities.

"He looks at the qualities that contribute to success in leading up with council, leading down with staff and leading out to the community," Robichaud said. "I hope his profile of my experience helps shed some light on what's involved in municipal government, which is a part of so many day-to-day things we all take for granted."

Siegel said another application of his book is as a CAO hiring guide for mayors and councillors.

But, he added, CAOs never come in "one size fits all" for any municipality.

"You have to look at your municipality and decide what you want over the next five years, and then hire the CAO that fits the particular needs of your municipality," he said.

"Another big audience is younger people in municipal administration who might aspire to become CAOs at some point."

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■ **GEOCACHING:** More than two million hidden caches around the world

Geocaching: Going on a treasure hunt

TONY RICCUTO
Postmedia Network

The challenge is to look for a hidden treasure.

There are more than two million of them around the world and some can be found in almost any city or neighbourhood.

You won't get rich after finding the treasure, but it can provide hours of fun while trying to unravel the clues to help you to solve the mystery.

It's the world of geocaching. It's an outdoor recreation activity that can be done at any time. There is relatively no cost, and all you need to get started is a Global Positioning System device or an iPhone.

"You can do it as much or as little as you want," said Dave Wilson, who has been doing it for about 10 years, and is a member of a recently formed group called the Niagara Regional Geocachers.

Their members get together once a month, usually at a local restaurant, where they grab a bite to eat and talk about geo-

caching.

On April 11, the members had a display at Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls where they explained their hobby to others and showed some of the containers that are often used to hide the cache.

"Geo is for the word earth, and cache is French for the word hidden. So you are basically hiding things on the earth," said Wilson. "It started with people going into the woods and finding a container that is well hidden. Since then it has expanded into urban caching, which is almost like hiding things in plain sight. Unless you are really looking for it, you are not going to find it."

To find the clues, people go online to www.geocaching.com where everything is explained and they can create a free account.

Wilson said it's quite easy to begin for anyone who owns a smartphone because they have a GPS and it's just a matter of signing in and loading up



the information.

At the click of a button, it will show a number of sites in an area and then the participant decides which treasure they will try to find.

All caches have a logbook so once the item is found, you sign it and put it back in place so that someone else can find it. Some of the larger containers will sometimes have small items in them that makes it fun when children find them.

"The kids love it because it's a treasure hunt" said Wilson.

If items are taken out, other items or equal or greater value should be put back in for others to find. Once you return home, the information is put online so it can be shared with others.

Wilson has logged more than 9,000 finds, while another member of the group, Mark Steele, is nearing the 2,000 mark.

"It's a really good feeling to be able to find something," said Steele, who located four items the first time he tried it while working an area near Decow Falls in St. Catharines. "Once you find that first one it makes you want to do more," said Steele.

Wilson said the location of the cache will often determine the size of the container. If one is out in the woods and there are lots of trees and

fallen stumps, you don't want to use something really small because it will be too difficult to find.

Some people get creative when they hide things. An item might look just like an old chunk of wood, but the person might have drilled a hole at the end and placed a small container holding the cache.

Or it might be an ordinary sprinkler head or a golf ball sitting on a lawn. The cache might be found once the sprinkler head is opened or when the golf ball is picked up and it reveals that someone has drilled a hole in it and hidden an item.

"You are only limited by your creativity," said Wilson. "You are always trying to generate a lot of curiosity in the game by doing different things. You don't always want to do the same thing or you will get boring. Many people really appreciate the effort you put into it."

tony.riccuto@sunmedia.ca

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Refuge in refuse

Landfill provides a home to some of the people in Jalapa, Guatemala

GRANT LAFLECHE
Postmedia Network

More than the penetrating stench, more than the grime and the filth, there is no escaping the flies.

They swarm around everyone and everything in the expansive Jalapa landfill. From the moment you draw near the garbage dump, the flies fill and buzz about your face, sometimes in groups so thick it impedes your vision.

To those who live there, however, who scrape out some sort of existence in this sea of rotting and burning trash, the flies are not an issue. They've grown accustomed to them.

Maybe that's why Manuel and Paolo, two brothers who walk through the dump hand in hand, didn't seem fussed about the swarms buzzing around in their ramshackle home, made of used garbage bags, metal poles and what ever else could be found in this desperate corner of Guatemala.

Manuel is the oldest of the pair, maybe five years old. His brother is about three. When the Wells of Hope team arrived at the dump, bringing a hot lunch for the denizens who live there, he took Paolo by the hand and led him to the lunch line.

They were too small to carry their lunch back to their shack, so Wells of Hope volunteer Kara Ogilvie carried their food for them. The brothers led us into their home and the flies inside immediately swarmed over their chilli, tortilla and juice.

The boys did not say much. They told us their names and asked for more juice. They did not seem interested in eating.

If their parents were around, they were likely part of the crowd of people digging through the pile of garbage about 100 metres away.

The brothers were not the only children left to fend for themselves in the landfill. About 200 metres away a baby, less than two years old



A baby and her brother sit in the garbage of the Jalapa landfill.

GRANT LAFLECHE/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

to my eye, sits in the middle of the lake of refuse watching her mother dig. A slightly older boy, perhaps her brother, sits a few feet away.

In yet another garbage hut, a little girl plays in a playpen, fashioned from a broken refrigerator.

While the little children wander the landfill, the adults scramble through a mountain of trash searching for something to eat or sell. Mere metres from the pile they are on, other garbage mounds

burn, casting toxic fumes into the air that burns the nose and makes the eyes sting. The scavengers don't seem to notice.

Packs of wild dogs also wander through the area, including a sickly puppy that barely has the strength to stand, alongside pigs and vultures with jet black wings.

Poverty is rampant in Guatemala, especially here in the mountains of Jalapa where every day is a struggle just to survive. But for all their hard-

ships, the people of the mountains live with a stoic dignity. They treasure family. Their faces are worn by time and circumstance, but they smile broadly, laugh deeply and cry from hearts.

The people in the dump all wear the same, blank expression on their faces. There are no smiles. There aren't even any tears.

In this hopeless limbo, life is just about existing, not living.

Norm Hauer of Wells of

Hope tells me about half of the people I saw in the garbage dump, like little Manuel and Paolo, actually live in there in the garbage bag shacks. The rest are from the mountain communities, who come down to the municipal landfill to find scrap to sell.

This is not a new situation in this country. Fifteen years ago, a former colleague, Cheryl Stephan, visited Guatemala City about three hours from Jalapa and reported on a similar community living in a municipal dump. Little, it seems, has changed since then.

Consider the moral outrage in Canada were we to find a community so large living off of garbage. The social agencies that would immediately remove the children from such a vile circumstance. The health agencies that would arrive to help people in such desperate need of it.

That does not happen in Guatemala. It simply goes on.



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